

Message Text

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12

ORIGIN EB-04

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /005 R

66665

DRAFTED BY:EB:ISM:WPOLIK

APPROVED BY:EB:ICD:JBYKLE

EB:ISM:DFMEYERS

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R 272232Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 148512

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC JULY 26, 1973 FROM
GUATEMALA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 3594

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, GT

SUBJECT: FERROUS SCRAP EXPORTS

REF: STATE 136432

1. GOG BY EXECUTIVE DECREE OF JUNE 12, 1973 AUTHORIZED
SALE FOR DOMESTIC USE OR EXPORT OF GOG OWNED FERROUS
SCRAP. BAN ON SALE OF GOG OWNED SCRAP HAD BEEN IN
EFFECT FOR OVER TEN YEARS DURING WHICH PERIOD GOG
SCRAP STOCKPILES BUILT UP TO BETWEEN 300,000 TO
400,000 TON LEVEL. SCRAP MAINLY BELINGS TO HGHWAY
DEPARTMENT AND FEGUA (FEDERAL RAILROADS). GOG
PLANS MAINTAIN 10 PERCENT RESERVE (30-40,000 TONS) TO MEET
POSSIBLE DOMESTIC EMERGENCY SITUATION. SALES WILL
BE MADE SUBJECT TO PUBLIC CALLS FOR BIDS; SCRAP WILL
BE SOLD ON WHERE IS AS IS BASIS. GOG HAS NO IDEA OF
GRADE QUALITY ITS SCRAP SUPPLIES. INTEREST IN GOG
FERROUS SCRAP SHOWN BY U.S., JAPANESE, MEXICAN AND
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COLOMBIAN BUYERS.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF USG CONTROLS ON FERROS SCRAP EXPORTS TRIGGERED PUBLIC OUTCRY AGAINST GOG ACTION BY LOCAL FOUNDRIES, THE CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY AND THE NATIONAL MORTGAGE BANK (WHICH FINANCED NEW STEEL RE-ROLLING MILL THAT WILL USE FERROUS SCRAP). NEWSPAPERS GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO LOCAL COMPLAINTS AND ADDED A COUPLE OF ADVERSE EDITORIALS. PUBLIC INTEREST HAS NOW WANED AND ACCORDING HIGH LEVEL MIN ECON SOURCE GOG PLANS LET OUTCRY FADE AWAY COMPLETELY BEFORE SOLICITING BIDS.

3. SALES OF FERROUS SCRAP WHEN CONSUMATED WILL PROVIDE GOG WITH WELCOMED NEW ONE TIME INCOME SOURCE.

4. EXPORTS OF NON-FERROUS SCRAP NOT CONTROLLED BY GOG.
BOWDLER UNQUOTE ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE148512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EB:ISM:WPOLIK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973076/aaaaaeid.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 STATE 136432
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Dec-2001 by thomasv0>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2002 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FERROUS SCRAP EXPORTS
TAGS: EIND, ETRD, GT
To: ROME EC BRUSSELS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005